

XLV.—*A new Mongoose from Namaqualand.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.R.S.

By the generosity of Mr. C. D. Rudd, a trained taxidermist (Mr. C. H. B. Grant) has been enabled to carry on a collecting tour in South Africa on behalf of the National Museum. A specimen of *Lepus capensis* obtained on this expedition has already been referred to above in the description of *Lepus capensis centralis**, and I now have the pleasure of describing a very fine and distinct new mongoose found by Mr. Grant in the north-eastern part of the Colony.

It may appropriately be termed

Herpestes Ruddi, sp. n.

Size of *H. pulverulentus*, which it appears to represent in Namaqualand. Important characters as in that species, except in regard to the tail-tip. General colour of body rather browner and less grey than in *H. pulverulentus*, owing to the light rings on the hairs being yellowish instead of white and the underfur being darker. Posterior back becoming prominently deep blackish instead of the uniform grizzled grey of the older known species. This blackening is obtained by the long dorsal hairs being broadly black-tipped, with only one small subterminal light band, the underfur being also blackish. Under surface and hind limbs from hips downwards also blacker than in *H. pulverulentus*, the latter part being in some instances deep glossy black. Tail long, bushy, tapering, its hairs (except at the tip) annulated basally with black and dull whitish, their tips being broadly washed with buffy yellow, the general tone of the tail being therefore mixed yellow and black; hairs of end of tail wholly black, forming a glossy black tail-tip 1-2 inches in length.

Skull closely similar to that of *H. pulverulentus*; perhaps rather more heavily built; bullæ rather lower and less swollen. Upper carnassial teeth shorter antero-posteriorly.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 347 millim.; tail 315; hind foot (s. u.) 69; ear 26.

Skull: basal length 69; zygomatic breadth 39.5; interorbital breadth 16.5; palate length 39.6; breadth between outer corners of p^4 24.5; p^4 , greatest diameter 8, length on outer edge 7; diameter of m^2 3.6.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 7, vol. xii. p. 344 (1903).

Hab. Klipfontein, Namaqualand. Alt. 1000 m.

Type. Adult male. Original number 474. Collected 12th May, 1903, by C. H. B. Grant, and presented by C. D. Rudd, Esq.

This handsome mungoose forms a remarkable addition to the mammal fauna of South Africa, being conspicuously different from its only near ally *H. pulverulentus*, and is a noteworthy result of the exploration carried on by Mr. Rudd's patriotic assistance.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Geological Survey of Canada. (Dr. R. BELL, Acting Director.)—*Annual Report* (New Series), vol. xii. *Reports A, B, C, G, I, J, M, O, R, S.* 1899. With 8 coloured Maps (for the Reports) and numerous other illustrations. 932 pages. 8vo. Ottawa, 1902.

Report A.—Is a summary for the year 1899, by the Late Director G. M. Dawson, 1900, noticing in general and particular the various lines of research and results of work by the Geological Surveyors, in Yukon, British Columbia, the Mackenzie and Saskatchewan Districts, Ontario and Quebec, Hudson Bay, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Also work done in the Laboratory, Museum, and Library, together with Statistics of Minerals and Mines, and notices of Palæontology and Zoology.

Report B.—On the Atlin Gold-Mining District, British Columbia, by J. C. Gwillim, 1901. Gold-bearing gravels are noted and described, but are not said to offer any great inducement to immigrants. A geological map of the district indicates especially the valleys known, in 1899–1900, to yield gold. Some obscure fossils of Mesozoic age were found near Atlin Lake.

Report C.—On the Geography and Geology of Great Bear Lake and of a chain of lakes and streams thence to Great Slave Lake, by G. M. Bell, 1901. Gravels and Boulder-Clay, Tertiary, Cretaceous, Silurian, and Lower Cambrian (or Animikie) strata are noticed as well as intrusive greenstone and crystalline rocks. A series of specimens of rocks from the district are described in an Appendix, by A. E. Barlow.

Report G.—On the Geology and natural resources of the area included in the Map of the City of Ottawa and Vicinity, by R. W. Ells, 1901. With an Appendix on the fossils grouped locally and stratigraphically, by H. M. Ami. The geological map illustrating this Report covers an area of 450 sq. miles with Ottawa City as a